

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Lehi, the northern-most community in Utah Valley, was first settled by a group of Mormons in the fall of 1850. Known as Sulphur Springs that first year, the community later was named Dry Creek and then Evansville. Early in 1852 local bishop David Evans presented a petition to the Utah Territorial Legislature requesting that the community be incorporated. This request was granted on 5 February 1852, making the town Utah's sixth oldest. Also approved was Evans's suggestion that the town be named Lehi. Like the *Book of Mormon* patriarch of the same name, the colonizers of Lehi had been uprooted many times before finally settling in their promised land.

The small Mormon hamlet first experienced a monetary boom in 1858, as a result of the establishment of the Utah Expeditionary Force at nearby Camp Floyd. This was the largest military establishment in the United States at that time. The local economy skyrocketed again in the 1890's with the establishment of the Utah Sugar Company's first factory at Mulliner's Mill Pond.

Agriculture (wheat, oats, barley, and alfalfa) and animal industries (cattle ranching, sheep ranching, dairying, poultry raising, fisheries, and mink ranching) have made a profound impact on the economic history of the community.

While the history of many communities is relatively sedate, Lehi's reads like a page from "Tales of the Wild West." Unruly military personnel, hard-drinking teamsters, violent murders, and gambling dens were common in the early days. The Overland Route, Pony Express Trail, and transcontinental Telegraph all cross the Jordan River at nearby Indian Ford. This was the site of the Overland Mail Company's ferry crossing, under contract to famed Utah lawman, Porter Rockwell, who lived in Lehi from 1858 to 1862.

The town's colorful past has been well-chronicled in *Lehi: Portraits of a Utah Town*, published by Lehi City Corporation in 1990. This lively history is spotlighted several times a year through bus tours sponsored by local businessman, Carl Mellor. History, as well as intricate wonders from the far reaches of the world, is also celebrated through the extraordinary collections of the John

Hutchings Museum of Natural History, situated in the recently renovated Lehi Memorial Building.

Prominent Lehi landmarks today include the historic Main Street commercial district, Broadbent's (since 1882), Lehi Roller Mills (since 1905), the Lehi Pioneer Monument, and the Lehi Sugar Factory's 184-foot-tall smokestack, the tallest structure in Utah Valley.

"Lehi is a good place to live," has been the community's official slogan since 1911. Christian values, low crime rates, recreational facilities, fine parks, and numerous wide-open spaces prevail today. The Lehi City municipal offices are housed in new facilities. The city also boasts a new public library-- senior citizens complex and a public safety building, both built in 1989. In addition to one of the finest culinary water systems in the state (a \$3.74-million lead-free piping system installed in 1989), the entire town is serviced by a pressurized irrigation system which was completed in 1990.

Additional local amenities include The Historic Colonial House, (a reception center), Mellow Banquets, the colonial Manor (a retirement center), The Best Western Timpanogos Inn, a wide choice of fast food restaurants, Porter's Place restaurant, and Thanksgiving Point. The latter, a huge project-in-the-works, includes the Ambush Golf Course, Garden Wall Restaurant, several shops, an animal farm and retail and wholesale landscaping outlets. ultimately a farmer's market and world-class gardens will be developed.

Also meriting attention is the famous Lehi Round-up rodeo, which for the past half-century has been the town's number one attraction.

This guide to Lehi City's historical sites and places is based on Richard S. Van Wagoner's *Lehi Yesteryears* column which appeared in the *Lehi Free Press* from 1990-95. This publication has been funded through grants from the Lehi Historical Preservation Commission and Lehi City Corporation. Grant-in-aid was also obtained from the **UTAH DIVISION OF STATE HISTORY** and the **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of

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